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# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

## BOROUGH OF LOUTH

*For the Year 1925*

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LOUTH :

PRINTED BY W. K. MORTON AND SONS,  
MARKET PLACE AND QUEEN STREET.

1926.





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LOUTH,  
Lincolnshire,  
May, 1926.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Louth.**

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report of the Sanitary conditions of the Borough during the year 1925 and summary of previous years.

**1. General Statistics.**

Area (Acres)	...	...	2,749
Population (census 1921)	...	...	9,554
(estimated 1925)	...	...	9,430

*Physical features and general charactor of the area.* The Town of Louth is built in a valley, the river Lud flowing through it. On each side of the river the ground rises abruptly, especially on the West of the town. It lies at the foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds which are to the west; on the east the marshes extend 10 miles. These circumstances account for its abundant supply of water. The inhabitants proper of the town depend chiefly for their living on supplying the wants of the agricultural district. There are no large works employing labour. The newer parts of the town are chiefly inhabited by retired and elderly people of the residential class. The population is practically stationary.



## 5. General Provision of Health Services in the area.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council ;—

### (1) TUBERCULOSIS.

The Hospital at Louth which was formerly used as a Fever Hospital has been acquired by the Lindsey County Council for the treatment of advanced cases of Tuberculosis. It holds accommodation for nine cases. Less severe cases are sent to the County Sanatorium, which are also under the control of the Lindsey County Council.

### (2) MATERNITY.

There is at present no Hospital for Maternity cases, but a new ward is in progress of construction at the local General Hospital, where these cases will be received. It is hoped that the work will be completed within the next year.

### (3) CHILDREN.

A Children's Ward is also being built at the local General Hospital.

### (4) FEVER.

An arrangement has been entered into with the Grimsby authorities for the treatment of any infectious diseases, except Small-pox, at their Fever Hospital at Scartho, and these cases are conveyed there in their own ambulance, accompanied by a nurse.

### (5) SMALL-POX.

Cases of Small-pox are now sent to the Small-pox Hospital erected at Osgodby.

There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, Illegitimate infants and homeless children in the area, except that provided by the Poor Law Authorities.

*Ambulance Facilities.* For accidents and non-infectious cases an Ambulance is kept in readiness at Thorn's Garage. This Ambulance belongs to the Red Cross Society.

### *Clinic Treatment Centres.*

Maternity Child Welfare centre		Queen Street.
Tuberculosis Dispensary	:	Queen Street.

These are both under the control of the Lindsey County Council who provide their own Nurses and Medical Officers.

## **6. Public Health Staff.**

This consists of a Medical Officer of Health and a Sanitary Inspector, who also holds the office of Borough Surveyor and has one Assistant. During the year a Veterinary Surgeon has been appointed Inspector of Slaughter-houses and Dairies.

## **7. Summary of Nursing Arrangements.**

(a) *General.* A School Clinic provided by the County Council is held each week and a nurse resides on the premises.

(b) *For Infectious Diseases.*

There is also a nurse who visits cases of Measles and Whooping-cough reported from schools, and she helps to nurse the severe cases in houses where no other nursing is available. There is a District Nurse maintained by private subscriptions who visits the poor, and also urgent cases. She is not allowed to attend infectious cases.

*Midwives.* A certified Midwife is now resident in the town and is under the control of the County Council. In difficult cases she can call in the services of any local Medical man, the County Council being responsible for the payment of his fee.

## **8. Laboratory Work.**

The County Council Authorities have a Laboratory at Lincoln where pathological and bacteriological specimens are examined. The Medical men of the town sending any Specimens there.

A supply of Diphtheritic serum is provided by the Borough for urgent cases.

## 9. Sanitary Administration.

### WATER.

Within the last 5 years the Local Authorities have acquired the undertaking of the Louth Water Company and a constant supply of water is available for the town. The latest analysis shows the water to be of standard purity and free from any contamination, and 84 per. cent of houses are supplied with it. The remaining houses use Well-water. During the last 5 years 22 wells have been closed as polluted. No new ones have been sunk. The number of samples obtained during the last year were :— (a) wells - 4, (b) public water supply - 2.

It is intended in the near future to close all the wells in the town, as it is impossible to keep them in a healthy condition.

The percentage of houses supplied by the Corporation Water Supply has increased since 1921, from 75% to 84%.

### RIVERS & STREAMS.

All sewerage has been removed from the rivers and no complaints are now received as to offensive smells.

### DRAINS & SEWERS.

Drains examined, tested, etc.,	...	...	34
Drains unstopped, trapped, etc.,	...	...	26
Waste pipes. rain water pipes disconnected, repaired			nil
New soil pipes or ventilating shafts repaired	...		2
Drains reconstructed	...	...	41

### TANKS. FILTER BEDS, Etc.

The Public Health Committee have had a scheme before them for the erection of a new Disposal Works on the site of the existing ones, but have not yet accepted same. An Inspector from the Ministry of Health made various suggestions.

The Borough Surveyor has now been instructed to prepare a scheme for the better working of the Filters and Tanks, which will be considered by the Public Health Committee at an early date. No complaint has been received as to smell arising from the Sewerage Works, but complaints have been received as to offensive smell from the river at Alvingham, due to the impure effluent from the works discharging into the river.



## CLOSETS.

No. of houses with privy vaults (middens)	...	26
do. with pail closets	...	1334
do. water closets	...	1748 in 1331 houses.
No. of pail closets repaired	...	9
No. of water closets substituted for dry receptacles	...	81

From 1921 to 1925, inclusive, 322 water closets have been substituted for dry receptacles.

## HOUSE REFUSE.

No. of covered ashpits	...	28
„ uncovered ashpits	...	nil
„ bins substituted for ashpits	...	nil
„ houses using portable bins	...	2,750

Refuse is removed fortnightly from each house by public scavenger and is sold to farmers and market gardeners; this arrangement is not entirely satisfactory as owing to the long distances to farms, the cost is serious.

No. of complaints of non-removal	...	nil
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## NUISANCES.

Total No. of Nuisances during year :—

(1) Abated as result of Informal action by Sanitary Inspector	...	nil
(2) Reported to Council :—		
Statutory notices issued	...	19
„ „ not issued	...	nil

## DETAILS OF NUISANCES ABATED.

		After Informal Intimation.	After Statutory Notices.
Overcrowding	...	nil	nil
Smoke	...	nil	nil
Accumulation of refuse	...	nil	4
Foul ditches, ponds, stagnant water	...	nil	nil
Foul pigs and other animals	...	nil	29
Dampness	...	1	2
Yards to be repaved or repaired	...	nil	28
Other nuisances	...	nil	nil

## SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary conditions and Water supply in the Schools during the year were satisfactory. The Newmarket School was closed for a short time, owing to an outbreak of Diphtheria.

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## 10. Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (6) with State assistance under the Housing Acts by the Local Authority	...	26
(b) By the Local Authority	...	11
(c) With State assistance under the Housing Acts by other bodies or persons	...	9

## DWELLING HOUSES.

### 1. *Unfit Dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	98
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910	...	111
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	nil
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	nil

### 2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice.*

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	...	4
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### 3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 :—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	4
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(2)	No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—		
	(a) by owners	...	4
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	nil
(3)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	nil

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects remedied	...	2
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—		
	(a) by owners	...	2
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	nil

C—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

(1)	No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	nil
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	nil
(3)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	nil
(4)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	nil
(5)	No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	nil

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

No. registered under bye-laws	...	...	2
No. of inspections made	...	...	2
No. of contraventions of bye-laws	...	...	nil
No. of contraventions remedied	...	...	nil

The numbers of houses built during the past five years are as follows:—

Year	Total	As part of municipal housing scheme
1925	26	20
1924	18	nil
1923	12	7
1922	26	20
1921	32	32
	<hr/> 114 <hr/>	<hr/> 79 <hr/>

As shewn above 114 houses have been built during the last five years. The Council are now erecting twelve non-parlour and parlour houses on the Brackenborough and Keddington roads, and are negotiating for the purchase of a field in Newmarket which it is proposed to lay out as a building site. The Huts in High Holme Road will, it is hoped, be shortly replaced by brick houses. The Corporation quite realise the necessity for providing more accommodation for the working classes at a reasonable rental, but though several parts of the town contains many old and insanitary areas, it is very difficult to find them better accommodation at a rent they are able to pay. Many are only casual labourers and find themselves unable to pay the rents of those houses erected ostensibly for working men when building was so expensive. I find on investigation that most of these people pay on an average 3/- or 4/- a week rent and cannot afford to pay the 6/- or 7/- a week rent for the newer houses, but I hope that in the near future cheaper houses will be erected.

In some of the poorer districts the housing accommodation is inadequate and the sanitary arrangements are not satisfactory. By conversion of the old midden closets into water closets great improvements have been made, and it is hoped to bring pressure to bear on the owners of these properties shortly to put them into a better state of repair. In many of these houses the water supply has been supplied by wells, and it is intended to close all wells and to compel owners to supply Town water, which is very satisfactory.



One of the great difficulties has been that much of this old property is owned by people of limited means, and many of the repairs can only be undertaken by the Municipal Authorities. Whenever it has been possible many of these old houses have been condemned and better accommodation found, but owing to the shortage of cheap houses it has been very difficult. When complaints reach them of insanitary conditions of houses, the Authorities have given special attention to the water supply and conversion of the old middens into water closets, and otherwise do their best to remedy deficiencies.

The houses that have been built in Ramsgate and the Brackenborough Road are very satisfactory and have been easily let, but are not within the range of the really poorer classes. Cheaper houses are still much needed by the poor working Classes.

## DISINFECTION.

Disinfection is carried out by fumigation or spraying with formalin. All infected bedding and clothing is removed to the high pressure steam disinfector at the Isolation Hospital.

Rooms disinfected :—

(a) Ordinary infectious diseases	...	22
(b) Tuberculosis	...	8
Rooms stripped, cleaned and disinfected	...	4

Articles disinfected or destroyed from :—

(a) Ordinary infectious diseases	...	86
(b) Tuberculosis	...	12
(c) Hospital	...	149

## FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS.

One complaint was received during the year about the Eve Street Laundry, as to girls working over-time. The proprietor was prosecuted and fined. No other complaints were received.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 16 slaughter-houses on the register and 21 inspections were made.

Contraventions of bye-laws	...	...	2
Defects remedied	...	...	2

## COWSHEDS.

On register 18, inspections 22, contravention of bye-laws 1.

On 1st April, 1925, Mr. Beaumont, Veterinary Surgeon, was appointed Inspector under Diseases of Animals Act, and on September 1st, 1925, he was also appointed Inspector under the Tuberculosis Order. He reports to me that he has found most of the premises in a satisfactory condition and where necessary his suggestions have been complied with.

In conclusion I beg to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Acts Committee for their consideration and assistance during the past year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD SHARPLEY,

M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

*Medical Officer of Health*









